

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 04244 050938Z

13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 DLOS-06 COA-02

AF-10 EB-11 /156 W

----- 032485

R 050907Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9569

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 4244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, ID, MY, SN, US

SUBJECT: US NAVY TRANSIT OF MALACCA STRAITS

REF: A) SINGAPORE 4168 B) JAKARTA 12925

1. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF FLURRY OF NEWS COVERAGE ON OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1, SINGAPORE MEDIA HAVE LARGELY IGNORED ISSUE OF MALACCA STRAITS IN COMMENTING ON MOVEMENT OF US NAVY TASK GROUP INTO INDIAN OCEAN LAST WEEK. PRESS, RADIO, AND TV NOTED EVENT AS LEAD NEWS ITEM BUT, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, EDITORIAL COMMENT AVOIDED STRAITS ISSUE AND INSTEAD CONCENTRATED ON SPECULATION ABOUT INDIAN OCEAN BECOMING AREA OF FUTURE BIG POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN US AND SOVIETS.

2. ONLY NEW NATION, AFTERNOON ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, ON OCTOBER 31 (REF A) VENTURED TO FEAR THAT US MOVE WILL SEE MALACCA STRAITS ISSUE FLICKER INTO RAGING CONTROVERSY" AND "JAKARTA AND KUALA LUMPUR CAN BE EXPECTED TO STUDY CLOSELY IMPLICATIONS OF AMERICAN
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PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS WHICH THEY SAY IS NOT INTER-

NATIONAL WATERWAY."

3. COMMENT: SPARSENESS OF MEDIA COMMENT CONSISTENT WITH
GOS POLICY WHICH IS TO AVOID ANY ACTION ON SINGAPORE'S
PART THAT WOULD STIMULATE CONTROVERSY WITH THEIR
NEIGHBORS ON STRAITS ISSUE. GOS ATTITUDE REMAINS THAT
STRAITS SHOULD BE OPEN TO FREE TRANSIT WHICH OF COURSE
DIFFERS FROM VIEW HELD BY INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA.
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Message Attributes

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